

**STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**November 7, 2013**

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, November 7, 2013, was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Dodd, Barbara Kirby, Richard Chichester, Ken Pitts and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Best-Rolls and Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker, Erica Ehly and Terry Baxley-Morton

Mrs. Baker introduced Erica Ehly and stated she was the new Senior Planner that would be working with Mike Zuraf on the Comprehensive Plan and Rezoning cases.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oakenwold Farm - Information/Discussion

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission did not have a quorum last month so the item was not addressed. She stated a Phase 1 had been received and the Commission was unhappy with it and wanted time to go through it and give it full attention.

Mr. Pitts stated his concern was the report was incorrect about Civil War facts.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was not as informed about Civil War history as Mr. Pitts, but the battle date was incorrect.

Mr. Pitts stated he thought at first it was a typo but kept repeating it. He stated the maps were another issue and the incorrect information relating to the maps. He stated it made him wonder if the report was done on the correct location. He stated the report refers to the headquarters, but there were no headquarters on that location, but there was a picket line.

Mrs. Dodd stated the bulk of her comments have to do with the house and the identified Native American sites. She stated page 28 gave a brief history of Oakenwold and it talked about the Moncure Family's occupation there. She stated they left out three quarters of the history and the information there was misleading because it does not have the background information. She suggested they refer to Jerilynn's book because she has the information right there. She stated the book was not out when the report was written, but the information was there. She stated on page 92 the term "general Native American period", she had no idea what that refers to, and she has never heard that term when talking about Native American periods. One of the Native American sites that had a historical component, 44ST1148, needs to have a Phase II done. And she would recommend having a delineation done on the cemetery site, 44ST1149, because according to family history everyone was moved from there to Aquia but a delineation would confirm everyone had been moved. She noted the report also talks about Aquia Church and stated the cemetery was only as old as 1920, which was horribly wrong information. She stated in the report they were a little off hand about the resources at the

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complex not being significant. She stated in her opinion they were significant to Stafford County's cultural heritage because it was one of the few remaining farmsteads that has its outbuildings. Her first recommendation would be that everything be left there and preserved. She would also recommend a complete historic structure report be done which includes measured drawings of all the eligible buildings. She stated there are obviously a number of issues with this report that need to be corrected and addressed.

Mr. Rodriguez stated he had reservations about the correctness of the remainder of the document based on the errors found.

A discussion ensued concerning the correctness of the document and the requirements of the company hired to prepare the document. It was decided the Historical Commission would write a letter and include the comments by the members because this was an important resource and it needs to have correct information.

Mrs. Kirby asked if the Commission could require title searches in a Phase I.

Mrs. Dodd stated the basic format of the Phase I was done by the state and there is no way to require it, but it is part of the historic structures report that she asked for.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to include Mr. Pitts' critique in the letter.

Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion.

Mrs. Dodd asked if she should include the items she mentioned.

Mr. Chichester and Mrs. Kirby agreed.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Ms. Best-Rolls and Mrs. Conner were absent)

Mrs. Baker asked who would ensure that the Phase I reports are being done correctly. She asked if the Department of Historic Resources oversees the reports.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was not sure they looked at the reports, but they do collect them and put them in their files. She stated in her opinion it was up to the local community to oversee the reports.

A brief discussion followed concerning the requirements for Phase I reports and the requirements to be approved by the state and sanctioned and the next step if you continually received poor reports from the same companies. Mrs. Dodd stated she would research to see what, if anything could be done.

2. County-owned Properties - With Cultural Resources - Management/Maintenance - Discussion - **4:00 PM** by - Jamie Porter, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities.

Mrs. Baker stated Ms. Porter would not be arriving until 4 o'clock.

Mrs. Dodd moved on to Unfinished Business.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

3. Civil War Database - National Park Service – Update

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Mrs. Baker stated she spoke with Eric and because of the furloughs he would get back with her and provide a revised schedule. She stated it did tie in with the additional email she sent concerning VDHR wanting to undertake archeological surveys on properties in the county. She stated she would keep the Commission updated.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

#### **4. Approval of Completed Commission Meeting Minutes.**

##### **April**

Mrs. Dodd asked if everyone had a chance to review the April minutes and if there were any corrections or comments.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion for approval.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Ms. Best-Rolls and Mrs. Connor were absent).

##### **May**

Mrs. Dodd stated she did have some corrections on May, during the discussion concerning Glover's Store. She asked if she could open the discussion on April's minutes.

Mrs. Baker stated yes.

##### **April**

Mrs. Dodd stated during the discussion on the Glover Building, which was Ellis Store, the wording was a little confusing and she reworded some things. After the sentence the Ellis Store was in the way and said it should read "The existing store was rebuilt by VDOT. The building has a formed concrete foundation. They used the boards from the original store to create the forms for the foundation of the new store".

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to change the April 4<sup>th</sup> minutes to include the reworked sentence structure after the second paragraph on page 2 for approval.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Ms. Best-Rolls and Mrs. Conner were absent).

##### **May**

Mrs. Dodd asked if there were any corrections or additions to May minutes.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion for approval.

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Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Ms. Best-Rolls and Mrs. Conner were absent).

### June

Mrs. Dodd stated she had some rewording for June on the first page at the bottom, the archeological investigation of Garrisonville Landing, it should be Matt Laird, there is a “d” at the end of his name and the following part of that sentence should go away and basically there are two possible cemetery sites were identified on the property. There was one on the hill with three cedars growing in a triangle and there were some rocks there and a big slab. The other site was down the hill from the first one in a clump of trees, so that should read that way, a little more explanatory as to what happened out there.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the June minutes with the additions and deletions noted by Mrs. Dodd.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passes 5 – 0 (Ms. Best-Rolls and Mrs. Conner were absent).

### CONTINUATIONS

#### 5. Preservation Planner - Discussion – Update

Mrs. Baker stated the FY15 budget cycle has just started which begins next July 1 and we have officially put in a request, again, for our office and we are actually looking at justification including other offices that could potentially benefit and it will go to the finance and budget committee in January. So it will be going through the process.

Mrs. Dodd asked if there was anything the Commission could do to support this.

Mrs. Baker stated the Commission could contact the Board of Supervisors, two new members will start January 1.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission members if they wanted to do another letter.

Mrs. Kirby stated in her opinion they did not have a choice and the letter needs to go out and stated we need that because now there are more things to oversee.

A brief discussion arose concerning addressing the letter to the Board Chairman. It was decided to wait until after the first of the year, when the new Board members were in place and the Chairman was chosen.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would have a draft letter for the next meeting and the Commission could revisit this item next month.

#### 6. Falmouth Intersection - Master Interpretive Plan – Update

Mrs. Baker stated Mr. Harbin would send the draft plan out to the Commission members with the changes incorporated. She stated this would be presented to the Board of Supervisors as well.

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7. Proposed Ordinance O06-47 dated July 18, 2006 ref Archaeological Surveys & Investigations - Discussion.

Mrs. Dodd stated the next item on the agenda was there because she did not want it to go away. She stated the Commission had decided to try and get a preservation planner and do something more with the Ordinance after that.

### **REPORT BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

Mrs. Dodd stated she received a call from Mike Lott who is in charge of managing Crow's Nest. There is a meeting next Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock in this room. Basically he was asking anyone interested in knowing what is happening at Crow's Nest to come and discuss its future and create a group of individuals with some input. She stated the other thing on the 14<sup>th</sup> was a ceremony for the return of some documents that were taken during the Civil War at 10 o'clock in the Circuit Court Room 1. These are 18<sup>th</sup> century documents that were acquired at an auction and the individual wants to return them.

### **REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mr. Chichester stated on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 there was going to be a plaque dedication at Ferry Farm commemorating George Washington's Boyhood Home.

Mrs. Baker stated part of the original agreement was a plaque that acknowledged the people that were instrumental in getting Ferry Farm dedicated.

Mrs. Kirby stated on the county website there was notice that something about Government Island would be on the History Channel, concerning 10 things you don't know about the White House.

Mrs. Baker stated she did know the show would air Saturday.

2. ***County-owned Properties - With Cultural Resources - Management/Maintenance - Discussion - 4:00 PM*** by - *Jamie Porter, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities.*

Mrs. Baker stated she would hand out some information and get the conversation started before Mrs. Porter arrives.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission had asked Mrs. Porter to come and have a conversation because she is the new head of Parks and Rec, with the idea of trying to give her some information about the cultural resources contained on County property and information about taking care of the properties. She stated it was her understanding there was no line item budget for these resources and consequently some are being neglected. She stated hopefully this would help her find ways to manage and preserve the sites because the County owns the properties with resources such as archeological sites, buildings and cemeteries and each site presents unique problems, issues and solutions. She stated there needs to be a way to create a good management strategy for the sites because they provide good examples Stafford County's history.

Mr. Chichester asked if he could be excused because he was driving to Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Dodd stated yes.

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Mrs. Dodd asked if the county had any input with the Widewater Park.

Mrs. Baker stated Widewater was a State property.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the house at Duff Green Park. It was stated the house was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and was a beautiful home that was just sitting there and not being used. It was suggested it could be leased out and used for weddings because of the landscape being terraced down to the river or because of the numerous rooms it could be a museum or offices. It was mentioned there had been some discussion about tearing the house down and it was one of the cultural resources owned by the county that was in good shape at this point.

Another discussion arose concerning the Ray Grizzle building on Butler Road. It was stated a portion of the roof on the back of the building had collapsed and it was planned to tear the building down. It was demolition by neglect and that was one building that has great parking and it could be used as an interpretive center for Falmouth. It was stated that HOAs and other businesses were always looking for places to hold meetings at a location like this.

Mrs. Dodd stated these were items that should be brought to the forefront and hopefully work with Parks and Rec to hopefully find solutions. She stated the two biggest things needed were management plans for the resources and a way to have money.

Mrs. Baker stated the Board of Supervisors has been talking specifically about the Counting House and what to do there. They have the estimate on what it would take to fully rehab it so that it is usable. They have had discussion about relocating it out of the flood plain, demolition and other options. She stated she thought one thing that may be helpful was if the Commission could provide information to the Board or to staff, through Economic Development or Parks and Rec, on what funding options are out there for historic preservation. With a Cultural Resource Planner that would help, but until we get that position we could certainly use help in people telling us where they can go for funding, so they know what their options are.

Mrs. Kirby stated it has been brought up time after time that volunteer time could be used.

Mrs. Baker stated that was why she was asking for more detailed information that could be passed on to the Board that explains how you would go about doing this.

Mrs. Dodd stated a monetary value was given on each hour of the volunteers time and that would be multiplied out to a price that would certainly lower the matching grant cost to the County. She stated she was not a grant writer, but she knows that was something possible with matching grants. She stated it was an effective way to bring money to the table. If the Preservation Planner were someone who had the ability to write grants that would be another plus for that position.

Mrs. Baker stated writing grants were not always the problem it was knowing what grants were available.

Mrs. Dodd stated VDHR should be able to supply some of that information as well.

Mrs. Baker stated she would let Jamie introduce herself and some of her background.

Ms. Porter apologized that her schedule did not accommodate an earlier arrival. She gave the Commission a

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brief description of her background. She stated she was excited about working with the various commissions to see what could be done concerning the properties to keep them from falling into disrepair because of the lack of funds.

The members of the Commission introduced themselves to the Ms. Porter and explained part of the work with the county was with cultural resources.

Mrs. Dodd stated the county owns 18 properties at this time and the Commission would like to get a working relationship with Parks and Rec to help figure out how to best manage these resources, because they were all different and require different management strategies. She stated in her opinion all were potential tourist attractions and provide information on Stafford County's history. She stated the Commission had a discussion and it seems two of the biggest hurdles were management strategies and how to get money to take care of them. There was also a discussion concerning the possibility of grant money and the Commission would be more than happy to work and try to locate those grants. She stated some of them were matching grants and volunteer hours can be used towards the county's portion. She stated each property was unique and would have a different management program and the Commission would be happy to assist in putting those strategies together. She went into detail about where information could be found online concerning management policies as a starting point.

Ms. Porter stated she has consultants that have sent in proposals to prioritize funding strategies for 60 per cent of the assets, which were the fields and parks or properties where fields could be placed. She stated the remaining 40 per cent, which was the second phase, would look at that other assets such as the properties listed by the Commission, and help to determine a funding stream. She stated the website has been updated to include historical assets on the maps for parks in the County, which was not something done previously. She stated Mrs. Baker shared the Master Interpretative Plan, which was a document that talked about how to best use those assets and the interest in those assets to the County's benefit, so people can be aware of them. She stated she thinks the proposals she will receive will tell her how the funding stream should go, how it should be prioritized, and give recommendations on how to program them and then recommend how to market them. She stated she was aware there were assets that need to be addressed and she was excited about it being this close to understanding what needs to be done. She stated the funding was another issue but, with the information from the consultants about the properties and the best way to use them, she would be able to market for the funding required to support it.

A brief discussion ensued concerning marketing changes put in place for current parks, facilities and events in Stafford County.

Ms. Porter stated currently there were 20 parks in Stafford County which would increase to 22 by fiscal year 2015. There are 56 facilities to visit and suggested the Commission hold a meeting at one of the facilities on occasion. She said she agreed with the Commission to form a partnership and make sure what was being done benefits the Historical Commission.

Mrs. Baker asked if park projects were planned in the area with historic interest, could the information be shared with the Commission.

Ms. Porter stated she had a great interest in seeing that something would be done concerning the cultural resources. She wants to make the projects something the county is proud of.

Mrs. Dodd stated some of the cultural resources did not require a lot of money, but there were some that did.

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Ms. Porter stated she was also looking at something electronic at the locations, similar to what they have at Ferry Farm, to get information on your iPhone or iPad that would inform people about the location and also other sites in the vicinity to visit. She went into detail concerning a 3-way sign that was recently installed at Pratt Park with a map in the center and how it refers to the historical assets in that area and will match the website.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission would be happy to assist with any historical information needed for brochures.

The Commission members thanked Ms. Porter for coming to the meeting and they look forward to working with her on different projects.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning why the Historical Commission did not try to preserve resources instead of asking developers to have studies done. It was stated money was the issue and most of the property was private. But by having the studies done, even though it might be bits and pieces here and there, someday could be put together as a whole and be able to interpret what happened at that location.

Mrs. Baker stated the Commission could do something like Preserve America does, by making a top 10 endangered sites in Stafford County and put it on the website and present it to the Board of Supervisors on an annual basis or however open you feel necessary.

The Commission members agreed with Mrs. Baker's suggestion to create the endangered site list and present it to the Board and update it on an annual basis.

Mrs. Dodd suggested the Commission think about the subject and come back with suggestions that could be compiled into a list to present to the Board sometime next year. And possibly update it on an annual or semi-annual basis.

A brief discussion arose concerning historical easement programs as an incentive to property owners to save resources.

Mrs. Dodd stated she felt the key was to make the Board and the public more aware about cultural resources and what they mean to the County.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p. m.